

Drawings

2. The drawings submitted September 16, 2008 are acceptable.

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Examiner's Amendment

3. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with applicants' attorney, Mr. John J. Kelly, Jr, on June 2, 2008.

The application has been amended as follows:

- I. Claims 8 to 12, directed to the non-elected invention have been canceled.
- II. In claim 6, line 4, the phrase, "apparatus is based on" has been deleted and –is—has been inserted in its place.
- III. In claim 6, line 5, the word, "apparatus" has been deleted.
- IV. In claim 7, line ⁴~~3~~, the word, "apparatus" has been deleted.

T.S.
6/27/08

Examiner's Statement of Reasons For Allowance

4. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: The primary reason for allowance is that none of the references alone or in combination teach or suggest a method comprising the step of scanning a steel sheet perpendicular to the rolling direction with a continuous wave laser beam wherein the laser is of a TEM_{00}